

Spring 2007

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*To learn more about
 the 2007 Plan and
 review draft materials
 as they are available,
 please visit:*

[www.nh.gov/oep/
 programs/SDP](http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/SDP)



Photography courtesy of: Dale W. Lary

The Director's Note**By Amy Ignatius**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *PLANERGY - The NH Planning and Energy News Source*, an electronic newsletter of the NH Office of Energy and Planning. Our goal is to provide up-to-date information on key developments and significant policy initiatives and to promote greater interaction between the planning and energy communities. It is a way for you to know what OEP is doing, who is doing it, and why it is important.

OEP is a 24 person state agency, the successor to the Office of State Planning and the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services. Our mission is:

to support planning that enhances the State's economic growth while preserving its unique character and natural beauty, and to advocate sound energy policies that encourage the use of renewable resources, reduce energy demand and constrain energy price increases.

We manage a wide array of planning and energy programs that serve our state, municipalities, and its citizens. Some, like Weatherization and Fuel Assistance, have a very public face and are well known to many of you. Others, such as the State Data Center or Refugee Resettlement Program, are less well known but provide vitally important services. Floodplain Management staff spend most of their time quietly working behind the scenes until a crisis such as the October 2005 Alstead flood hits and they are out in the field as part of the emergency response team. *(Continued on Page 2)*

State Development Plan Update

OEP is directed to assist the Governor in preparing and updating the plan every four years, pursuant to RSA 9-A. The 2007 State Development Plan is centered on 10 goals and 50 strategies for New Hampshire.

The purpose of the State Development Plan is to serve as the State's overall planning document - to act as a guide for all

State agencies as they develop plans, programs, and projects; to help State agencies establish priorities and allocate limited resources; to account for the plans of local and regional government and agencies; and to reflect the vision of the State's citizens.

The plan is now being drafted, with a target date for review in summer 2007.

OEP Program Spotlight

In future issues, this section of the newsletter will highlight one of OEP's programs. You will learn in detail how each program works and what services it offers to the planning and energy community. Program staff will tell you more about their day-to-day work and how they interact with the various levels of government, from the federal level to local communities.

This inaugural issue of PLANERGY includes a short summary of all programs managed by our office. Please view the list below and refer to the 5-page attachment at the end of this newsletter to read more about our programs.

- Municipal and Regional Planning Assistance
- Floodplain Management
- Council on Resources and Development
- Geographic Information System
- State Data Center
- Conservation Land Stewardship
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Scenic and Cultural Byways Program
- Refugee Resettlement
- Fuel Assistance
- Weatherization
- State Heating Oil and Propane Information
- Energy Policy

The Director's Note *(Continued from Page 1)*

We will profile programs and staff in each issue of the newsletter. In this first issue we highlight all OEP programs to give you an overview and we introduce several regular newsletter sections that you will see again, such as the Smart Growth Digest and Legislative Update.

I have been serving as Director for a year now, and continue to be excited about the work we do. The OEP team is dedicated, talented and delightfully open-minded. I look forward to enhancing our connections with the greater planning and energy communities and exploring opportunities to bridge these two issues of critical importance. The synergies are becoming increasingly clear, something we will explore in future issues.

Please visit our website at www.nh.gov/oep for in-depth information on each of our programs. We welcome your feedback and critiques of our programs as together we tackle the challenges facing New Hampshire in the 21st century.

For more information on OEP's Programs, visit our website at:

www.nh.gov/oep

There is still time to register for the

OEP Spring Planning & Zoning Conference

April 28, 2007

Visit our website for more info:

www.nh.gov/oep

Smart Growth Digest

Union Mill in West Peterborough

Among the great examples of mixed use “green building” developments in New Hampshire, one of the best is certainly **Union Mill** in West Peterborough. The restoration of this old mill building includes a number of sustainable/energy efficient building practices and “smart” planning. Reuse of existing buildings in our villages helps maintain our compact settlement patterns and fosters environmental quality as well as increasing the social viability of our villages.



Yoga Studio at Union Mill

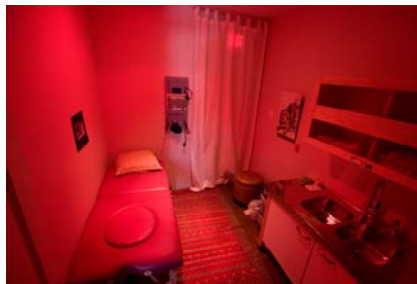
*For more
information on
Union Mill visit:
www.unionmill.net*



Residential unit at Union Mill

The Union Mill building includes a residential portion with 10 units, varying in size from 960 to 1,590 square feet. Each unit was restored with environmentally conscious building materials, a fossil fuel-free energy efficient heating system, and a super-insulated shell resulting in minimal heat loss and very low heating bills for residents. At this point, health practitioners, artists and educational organizations occupy the first floor commercial area. A café and organic food market with locally grown produce is set to open in early April.

All of the residents and businesses enjoy hydro-powered electricity from the river that runs through the property. This spring, the redevelopment will be “garnished” with organic edible landscaping using permaculture techniques, and solar panels will be installed to heat hot water to supplement the central pellet boiler plant currently in use. A bike share program is also planned to give residents free use of bicycles to connect with downtown Peterborough.



Medical Office at Union Mill

Union Mill meets five out of the eight NH Smart Growth Principles:

Principle #1 - [Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns...](#)

Principle #2 - [Foster the traditional character of New Hampshire...](#)

Principle #3 - [Incorporate a mix of uses...](#)

Principle #5 - [Provide choices and safety in transportation...](#)

Principle #6 - [Protect environmental quality...](#)

*To learn more
about the NH
Smart Growth
Principles visit:
www.nh.gov/oep*

*And follow the Smart
Growth link.*

Ten Tips to Save Energy Today

Easy low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy

- Set your thermostat comfortably low in the winter and comfortably high in the summer. Install a programmable thermostat that is compatible with your heating and cooling system.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power).
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120°F.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label on home appliances and products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

For more information on **energy savings tips** visit:

U.S. Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

www.eere.energy.gov

Alliance to Save Energy

www.ase.org

Legislative Update

Several bills related to energy and planning have been introduced this session. These include:

HB 119: AN ACT relative to the sunset provision of the System Benefits Charge. The System Benefits Charge is a portion of your electric bill that is set aside to fund energy efficiency and low-income energy assistance programs. This bill removes the June 30th, 2008 sunset provision for the low-income program. If passed, both the energy efficiency and low-income programs would remain in effect until further action by the legislature.

SB 217: AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire housing and conservation planning program. This program would provide technical assistance grants to municipalities to develop planning tools that lead to greater workforce housing and better land use management. Governor Lynch included \$200,000 per year in his budget for this program, to be administered by OEP.

HB 255: AN ACT establishing a committee to study the implementation and use of growth management ordinances. This act addresses efforts by towns to use growth management ordinances to stop growth rather than manage it. This bill has been retained, which means the matter will not be considered further this session but may be taken up again next year.

(Continued on Page 6)

Planning FAQs

Q. Which is better, an elected or appointed planning board?

A. This can only be answered by each individual community. RSA 673:2, II allows the local legislative body to determine if the planning board will be 5 or 7 members and if the board shall be elected or appointed. For an appointed board, RSA 673:2 dictates who has the authority to appoint members depending on the type of municipalities. If changing from an appointed board to an elected board, the statute allows the legislative body to choose if all appointed members shall be replaced by elected members all at once or if they will change on a staggered basis at subsequent regular town elections as the term of an appointed member expires, until each member of the board is an elected member. For an elected board changing to appointed, elected members continue to serve out their terms and members are then appointed to fill those positions as their terms expire.

Currently, there are approximately 103 elected and 129 appointed planning boards. For a full listing, go to our website at: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/referencelibrary/m/mlurdatasereports/index.htm>.

Q. If there is a move to an elected planning board, who appoints the alternates?

A. For an appointed board, the "appointing authority" selects the alternates. If you change to an elected board, the alternates would still be appointed but it would be by the planning board once all the positions are filled with elected members. See RSA 673:6.

Q. Are any boards exempt from the multiple membership restriction for planning board members in 673:7?

A. No, there are no exemptions at least in the words of the statute. It reads "any other municipal board or committee" and doesn't exempt any. However, RSA 674:5 says that a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) committee must have at least one planning board member and may have more. That is the only instance where multiple planning board members would be allowed.

OEP in the News

Joe Broyles, OEP's energy program manager, was featured in a March 16, 2007 Nashua Telegraph article, *With spring comes rising gasoline prices*. The article discussed the expected rise in gasoline prices this spring and included reactions of consumers to this rise. The article also discussed the impact consumers have on prices. Joe was quoted in the article as saying: "It boils down to supply and demand in New Hampshire, and the nation is the same," Broyles said. "The demand is up compared with last year. People are buying bigger cars and driving more."

*"Make no little plans.
They have no magic and
probably themselves will
not be realized. Make
big plans; aim high in
hope and work,
remembering that a
noble, logical diagram
once recorded will never
die, but long after we
are gone will be a living
thing, asserting itself
with ever-growing
insistency. Think big."*

*Daniel Burnham,
Chicago architect
(1864-1912)*

*The full article can
be found at:
www.nashuatelegraph.com*

Legislative Update *(Continued from Page 4)*

HB 447: AN ACT relative to net energy metering. Net energy metering allows small producers of power (for example, a homeowner or small business with a solar energy installation) to receive credit on their electric bill for excess power generated. The bill would increase the size of systems that can qualify for the program, as well as increasing the total amount of generation allowed to participate in the program.

HB 648: AN ACT establishing a commission to develop a comprehensive flood management plan. This commission would study possible measures for controlling floods to minimize their impact on communities and individual properties throughout the state.

HB 873: AN ACT establishing minimum renewable standards for energy portfolios. This bill would require that a certain percentage of electric power delivered in the state will come from renewable energy sources. The House approved it; the bill is now under consideration in the Senate.

SB 140: AN ACT relative to Public Service Company of New Hampshire. SB 140 has been hotly contested and, as of publication time, the outcome is far from certain. The major policy issues include whether PSNH and other regulated utilities should be allowed to build renewable generation and if so, in what areas of the state and whether the process for siting renewable energy projects should be significantly accelerated.

In addition, several bills have been introduced relative to shoreland protection, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, and renewable energy.

Announcements

The *Capital Improvements Programming Handbook*, first written in 1991, has been updated by OEP staff and is now included in the *Planning Board in NH: A Handbook for Local Officials* as Chapter 6. A great improvement to this edition is that all the tables presented in this chapter are now available for download on the OEP website in a Microsoft Excel format. Formulas are included for ease of use.

OEP updated the New Hampshire *Floodplain Management Handbook*, which was completed in September 2006. This handbook replaces the last version, known as the New Hampshire Flood Insurance Handbook, which was updated in April 2004. The handbook provides information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) including community responsibilities, floodplain regulations, floodplain mapping, and flood insurance.

For more information on the House and Senate bills listed visit:

www.gencourt.state.nh.us

To download free copies, visit the OEP website at:

www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/HandbooksAndOtherPublications.htm

To review or download a copy, visit:

www.nh.gov/oep/programs/floodplainmanagement/handbook.htm



OEP's MISSION

To support planning that enhances the State's economic growth while preserving its unique character and natural beauty, and to advocate sound energy policies that encourage the use of renewable resources, reduce energy demand and constrain energy price increases.



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Jennifer Gilbert, Principal Planner
Mark Toussaint, Grants Manager
Steve Walker, Stewardship Specialist
Joe Broyles, Energy Program Manager
Barbara Seebart, State Refugee Coordinator

Calendar of Events

April 14, 2007

Saving Special Places (Co-Sponsored by OEP, UNH and SPNHF)

Londonderry Middle School, Londonderry, NH

www.clca.forestsociety.org

April 28, 2007

14th OEP Spring Planning & Zoning Conference

Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH

www.nh.gov/oep

May 10-11, 2007

New Hampshire Planners Association Annual Conference

Sheraton Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

www.nhplanners.org

May 23, 2007

Annual Drinking Water Protection Workshop (NH DES)

New Hampshire Technical College, Concord, NH

www.des.nh.gov/dwspp

June 30, 2007

Minority Women's Health Conference

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nashua, NH

www.dhhs.state.nh.us

September 19, 26 & October 3, 17, 24, 31, 2007

Municipal Law Lecture Series (Local Government Center)

Locations to be announced

www.nhlgc.org/LGCWebsite/index.asp

October 25-28, 2007

The Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association 2007 Annual Conference

Portland, ME

www.nnecapa.org

All OEP Contacts can be reached at (603) 271-2155 or at their email address given below.

Municipal and Regional Planning Assistance

OEP's Municipal and Regional Planning Assistance (MRPA) program provides information and assistance to local land use boards on different subject matters such as: master planning, board procedures, zoning ordinances, building codes, subdivision and site plan review regulations, smart growth techniques, capital improvement plans, impact fees, innovative land use controls, excavation and other local land use regulations.

In addition, the MRPA staff prepare and update guidebooks and technical bulletins on municipal planning, zoning and related topics of interest; maintain a central file of local land use regulations as required by RSA 675:9; develop and present training programs (bi-annual conferences) for local land use boards and Regional Planning Commissions in accordance with State statutes; and provide technical assistance to communities in special areas such as water resource protection planning, wetlands protection, floodplain management and smart growth. MRPA staff is also in charge of preparing the State Development Plan and is actively involved in the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) that the NH Department of Transportation has developed for the I-93 Expansion Corridor.

Contact: Chris Northrop (chris.northrop@nh.gov) or Sandrine Thibault (sandrine.thibault@nh.gov)

Floodplain Management Program

Since 2004, OEP has been administering the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in New Hampshire. The NFIP is a partnership between a community and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities participate by agreeing to adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance designed to reduce future flood risks. FEMA will make available federally-subsidized flood insurance to all residents in those participating communities.

Through FEMA's Community Assistance Program, OEP provides the following: technical assistance to communities and the public on floodplain management; workshops and training on the NFIP; floodplain maps and studies; model ordinances for communities interested in joining the NFIP, as well as to participating communities; Community Assistance Visits to ensure that communities participating in the NFIP are meeting program goals; and outreach materials such as forms, documents, and publications.

Contact: Jennifer Gilbert (jennifer.gilbert@nh.gov)

Council on Resources and Development

The Council on Resources and Development (CORD) provides a forum for interagency cooperation in assuring consistency with established policies relating to the environment, natural resources, and growth management issues under RSA 162-C. CORD is also responsible for resolving interagency conflicts and for approving the disposal of state owned real property.

Principal among CORD's duties is the implementation of the state's smart growth policy, as embodied in RSA 9-B. CORD is responsible for encouraging smart growth consistency in the distribution of state agency funds to local and regional entities, the capital budget requests of state agencies, state agency facility location planning, and building operation and maintenance plans. Every four years, CORD is required to report to the Legislature on its findings on the consistency of state agency actions with the smart growth principles. CORD also facilitates the coordination of state, regional, and local planning consistent with RSA 9-A.

Contact: Jennifer Czysz (jennifer.czysz@nh.gov)

Geographic Information System

The Geographic Information System (GIS) program at OEP provides computerized mapping support for the office. Virtually every activity in the office has a mapping component, from showing lands protected by the Conservation Land Stewardship Program to depicting the locations of refugee communities in the state. In addition, OEP is the prime state government funder of the statewide GIS known as GRANIT, operating from Complex Systems Research Center at the University of New Hampshire.

OEP is also responsible for coordination of GIS activities among state agencies and other organizations. The office chairs the state's GIS Advisory Committee, a group of GIS users from state, municipal, regional, and federal governments, as well as interested users from the private sector. The Advisory Committee is nearing the completion of a Strategic GIS Plan for state government, with recommendations for strengthening the state's GIS coordination function and for setting priorities in geographic data development.

Contact: Ken Gallager (ken.gallager@nh.gov)

State Data Center Program

Since 1968, OEP has been mandated by State Law to estimate the population of the state's municipalities on an annual basis. The estimates are used in a formula to allocate state funds to municipalities, as well as for many planning purposes. Since 1964, OEP has periodically issued population projections that serve as a probable guide to future growth.

OEP disseminates demographic data to public and private agencies. This includes updating its web page and responding directly to requests from data users. The office serves as the Governor's liaison to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. There are two Memorandum of Understandings with the Census Bureau. These agreements call for OEP to support Bureau efforts in estimating population and disseminating the Bureau's data to the public.

Contact: Tom Duffy (tom.duffy@nh.gov)

Conservation Land Stewardship Program

The Conservation Land Stewardship (CLS) Program is responsible for monitoring and protecting conservation values of conservation lands in which the State of New Hampshire has invested. The program began in 1993 as an outgrowth of the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and was developed as a partnership among the departments of Fish and Game; Resources and Economic Development; Agriculture, Markets and Food, and OEP.

Today, CLS monitors over 100,000 acres of state-held conservation easements and it works with 78 communities to provide technical assistance, education, and field support. CLS also serves as an important resource for communities, agencies, landowners, and conservation organizations state-wide who inquire about interpretation of easement language and other issues that continually arise during the perpetual life of conservation easements. More information can be found on the CLS web page at www.nh.gov/oep/programs/CLSP/index.htm.

Contact: Pete Helm (peter.helm@nh.gov)

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

OEP develops the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the State. The SCORP serves as the State's official plan for outdoor recreation for five years, at which time it must be updated. It identifies major issues and challenges concerning the state's recreation and natural resources and offers a series of recommendations to address those issues. Some recommendations are guidelines while others give direction for specific actions, particularly for State agencies. The SCORP satisfies a requirement of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program where each state must have an approved SCORP on file with the National Park Service in order to participate in the LWCF program. The SCORP also fulfills the New Hampshire statutory requirement (RSA 12-A:18) for an outdoor recreation planning program.

Contact: Carol Barleon (carol.barleon@nh.gov)

Scenic and Cultural Byways Program

New Hampshire's Scenic and Cultural Byways Program was established in 1992 by the legislature to identify roadways that highlight the natural and cultural intrinsic qualities of the state. The purpose of the program is to support the establishment and maintenance of a state-wide network aimed at attracting travelers to New Hampshire and working with local and state agencies and other partners in the protection of these resources for future generations. The program works with national, state, and local entities to support the economy of the area by fostering visits by the traveling public, encouraging the preservation of our resources and building public pride in our communities.

Contact: Carol Barleon (carol.barleon@nh.gov)

Refugee Program

The New Hampshire Refugee Program provides federally funded services to refugees resettled in the state in accordance with federal statutes. The major goal of the program is to assist refugees in achieving social and economic self-sufficiency. Since the Congressional Refugee Act of 1980, New Hampshire has become home to roughly 6,000 individuals from over 30 nations for which we have humanitarian concern. New Hampshire's voluntary resettlement agencies include International Institute of New Hampshire and Lutheran Social Services.

Contact: Barbara Seebart (barbara.seebart@nh.gov)

Fuel Assistance Program

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) also known as the Fuel Assistance Program (FAP) is federally funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. OEP is responsible for the statewide administration in New Hampshire. OEP contracts with the six local Community Action Agencies to provide eligible households with assistance in paying their home heating bills. FAP prioritizes households where elderly, disabled persons and/or young children reside. Benefits are calculated taking into account household income, energy costs, number of degree-days within a region, and housing type. This targeting allows those households with the lowest incomes and highest energy costs to receive the highest benefits.

Contact: Celeste Lovett (celeste.lovett@nh.gov)

Weatherization Program

The federal Weatherization Program was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Currently, Weatherization is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Since the inception of Weatherization, over 5.6 million homes nationwide have been weatherized. This year, over 1,000 homes will be weatherized in New Hampshire alone.

The Weatherization Program strives to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, and children. This goal is achieved by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. To that end, funds provided annually by Congress are used to improve the energy efficiency of low-income dwellings using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. Those technologies and protocols include blower door and pressure diagnostics, combustion efficiency analysis, and infrared thermography.

Contact: Andy Gray (andrew.gray@nh.gov)

State Heating Oil and Propane Program (SHOPP)

The federally-funded State Heating Oil and Propane Program (SHOPP) monitors residential retail prices for these fuels. The weekly survey begins on the first Monday in October and ends in mid-March. OEP also utilizes the SHOPP survey to monitor kerosene prices. Heating oil and propane price data are reported to the U.S. Depart-

ment of Energy and are also used by OEP to produce a weekly update of average prices, which are published on OEP's home page. During the remainder of the year, OEP surveys the SHOPP sample of companies monthly and updates the OEP web site average prices each month.

In connection with SHOPP price monitoring, OEP monitors and publishes gasoline, diesel, natural gas and electricity prices. Most prices from November 1998 to the present are available at www.nh.gov/oep/programs/energy/fuelprices.htm, as is a rolling 18-month graph of petroleum-based fuels average prices. Price data are used in a variety of ways, including analysis for the state's fuel assistance program, energy planning and other activities by a variety of state agencies.

Contact: Joseph Broyles (joseph.broyles@nh.gov)

Energy Policy

OEP participates in the development of a sound energy policy for New Hampshire. Energy staff advocate for greater energy efficiency, increased use of renewable resources and other energy matters before the state legislature, the Public Utilities Commission and in other state, regional and national forums. The OEP director is also the Governor's Energy Advisor.

Contact: Jack Ruderman (jack.ruderman@nh.gov)

Representation on Boards and Commissions

The legislature has placed OEP on numerous boards and commissions, including: the Capital Region Planning Commission, the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Committee, the Energy Planning Advisory Board, the Energy Policy Commission, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, the Nuclear Decommissioning Finance Committee, the Water Council and the Wetlands Council.